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EFFECT OF STEROIDS ON NMDA RECEPTORS DEPENDS ON SUBUNIT
COMPOSITION
ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

Disclosed is a method for identifying a subunit specific modulator of the N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor. The method involves providing a plurality of NMDA receptors which differ in their subunit identity. The receptors are contacted with a neurotransmitter recognition site ligand in the presence and absence of a candidate modulator. Receptor activity is then assayed, with an increase or decrease in activity in at least one, but not all members of the plurality of NMDA receptors, in the presence but not the absence of a candidate modulator, being an indication that the candidate modulator is a subunit specific modulator. The subunit identity of the subset of the NMDA receptors to determine the subunit specificity of the candidate modulator. Various combinations of NMDA receptor subunits are provided.

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